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## Our Man Hoppe

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# Democracy Begins at Home



Arthur Hoppe

PRESIDENT JOHNSON has dispatched Mr. Allen Dulles, former chief of the CIA, to the sovereign State of Mississippi in an effort to safeguard the lives and property of visiting Americans. The plan has great merit.

As an old CIA man, Mr. Dulles will, I assume, promptly overthrow the present government of Mississippi. For, as you know, overthrowing governments is instinctive in all CIA men. And if the CIA can overthrow the governments of Guatemala, Laos and other such sovereign states, why not that of Mississippi?

True, we face graver difficulties setting up a new government in Mississippi than in the other sovereign states we have overthrown. But let us not lose hope. Somewhere in Mississippi there must be a native Mississippian sufficiently committed to the principles of Western civilization and the ideals of the Free World to merit our confidence.

And once we have installed him, the rest, of course, is by now routine.

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WASHINGTON will announce with surprise and delight that the old dictatorial regime in Mississippi has been overthrown by "a new democratic government, which will hold free elections." As soon as the majority of the people is on its side.

Guerrilla warfare will immediately break out and the new government will appeal to Washington for economic and military aid. In order to preserve this key to Southeast America, we will dispatch 18,000 American military advisers,

tons of napalm bombs, tankers full of crop-killing chemicals and the chairman of our Joint Chiefs of Staff as our Ambassador.

To "better the lot of the people," we will send economic aid as well. This will consist of a "Strategic Hamlet Program," whereby we round up the natives and herd them into compounds surrounded by barbed wire and armed guards. For their own good.

To show Georgia, Alabama and other nearby sovereign States that "we mean business," we will send warships to cruise off the Mississippi coast. And our Secretary of Defense will visit the battle areas every Friday to issue encouraging statements: "If the improving situation in Mississippi continues to deteriorate daily we shall win in three months. If ever."

This will evoke grave debate on the need for using nuclear bombs in Mississippi as well as carrying the war into neighboring Louisiana to wipe out the insurgents' sources of supply.

But I am confident that if we can drop enough napalm bombs, strafe enough villages, destroy enough crops and kill enough peasants, we can eventually ram democracy down the throats of even Mississippians.

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THE COSTS, of course, will be tremendous—at least \$1.5 million a day, plus numerous American lives. And some will ask, "Is it worth it?" But I say what's good enough for Vietnam is good enough for Mississippi. Besides, it's a hell of a lot closer to home.